

FY 2004 Budget Meetings
Formal Comments
Hood River, Oregon – June 5, 2002

- 1), **Cindy De Bruleur**
Executive Director
Columbia River Keeper
Hood River, Oregon

Thank you for coming to Hood River. We hope you are here to hear, not preach. There is another meeting tonight that conflicts with ours, so I am here to speak on behalf of those that were unable to attend. I just want to say --- just protect the river. No guise, no scheme for walking away. Columbia River Keeper started 14 years ago to protect the river --- protecting the river and its critters is important.

Currently, the Plan does not show critter protection. Look at the best course for a comprehensive risk assessment by someone independent of the site.

- 2). **Leon Swenson**
Richland, Washington 99352

Thanks to the agencies for meeting around the region. I have one observation. I live close to the river ---- and understand the problem perhaps more than anyone in this room. I am concerned about the process. I want to make certain that cleanup is done to protect the environment and the population. I encourage DOE and others to continue to actively improve the acceleration. The annual battering or whipsawing of the priorities and budget is frustrating and a wasted effort.

Around this room there are message tee-shirts. My tee-shirt says : HWVP Groundbreaking 1992. If we built that plant we would be making glass now. My message: Get on with it! Keep truckin'! Don't restart this process again.

No need to do more re-characterization.

- 3). **Greg de Bruluer**
White Salmon (Bingen), Washington 98605

My comment on the Plan ---- remove the term "acceleration." Make it more efficient. Don't promise us a rose garden in 2012, 2008, etc. and then save all the money. We should be talking to the people of the Pacific Northwest --- that isn't happening. The Ad Hoc Task Force is the first time this has happened.

You have a Trust responsibility to the Tribes. The Tribes have a relationship with the earth ---- everything is inter-related. Hanford is a partner with the Columbia

River. Risk is now in the river. Until we have a Northwest vision for the riparian zone, groundwater, etc. we can't put out a plan. We are going down one road --- the road to court.

Feel for the people in Richland. They understand radiation, but they don't understand the inter-relationships. I understand you can't clean up every atom --- That is impossible.

Keith Klein needs to develop an acceptable clean up level forum and build a foundation for a solid acceleration plan. Tell Jesse Roberson that we're going to accelerate in one direction. Determine what does the public and the Tribes expect of us --- then we'll move further.

4). Jim Trumbold

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
Mercer Island, Washington

We can get seduced or distracted into the latest plan. We need to be cost effective, however, if you looked at the agencies, at least we are doing something important for our children. But to use cost effectiveness and not think about the huge legacy is a nit-pick. The Plan sounds sexy, attractive, and fast ---- but, we are starting to waffle here on the TPA by trying to cut costs and accelerate. This is not house dust we are talking about. This is lethal stuff --- lethal to the environment and to human health. We need to practice preventative medicine --- we need to prevent a disaster. Put nuclear clean up in the same basket as Homeland Security --- this is a significant part of Homeland Security.

My gut feeling is that saving \$40B will be politically popular, but accelerate in a safe way, and double the budget.

5). Gerald Pollet

Heart of America Northwest
Seattle, Washington 98101

(See attached presentation)

Gerald Pollet asked DOE for a formal commitment that there would be no further consideration of grout in the tanks.